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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/090,011	02/26/2002	Palle Serup	6246.200-US	3868
7590	01/16/2004			
Reza Green, Esq. Novo Nordisk of North America, Inc. Suite 6400 405 Lexington Avenue New York, NY 10174-6401				EXAMINER SHUKLA, RAM R
				ART UNIT 1632
				PAPER NUMBER DATE MAILED: 01/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	10/090,011	
Examiner	SERUP ET AL.	
Ram R. Shukla	Art Unit 1632	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears in the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) 1-41 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152).
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-41 are pending.

Election/Restrictions

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-3, 13-16, 29 and 33, drawn to a method for generating insulin secreting cells by exposing precursor stem cells to a nucleic acid encoding Nuerogenin3, classified in class 514, subclass 44.
 - II. Claims 4-6, 17-20, 30 and 34, drawn to drawn to a method for generating insulin secreting cells by exposing precursor stem cells to An activator of Nuerogenin3 expression, classified in class 514, subclass 1.
 - III. Claim 7-9, 21-24, 31 and 35, drawn to a method for generating insulin secreting cells by exposing precursor stem cells to a nucleic acid encoding NeuroD/B2 , classified in class 514, subclass 44.
 - IV. Claims 10-12, 25-28, 32 and 36, drawn to drawn to a method for generating insulin secreting cells by exposing precursor stem cells to An activator of NeuroD/B2 expression, classified in class 514, subclass 1.
 - V. Claim 37 and 39, drawn to a method for identifying an activator of Neugogenin3, classified in class 435, subclass 4.
 - VI. Claim 38 and 40, drawn to a method for identifying an activator of NeuroD/B2, classified in class 435, subclass 4.
 - VII. Claim 41, drawn to an isolated insulin-secreting cell with certain characteristics, classified in class 435, subclass 325.

3. Inventions of the groups I-VI are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions are drawn to methods that use different components and have distinct steps. For example, the method of group I and III use different genes whereas the methods of groups II and IV use different agents that alter expression of different genes. Similarly, the methods of groups V and VI are screening methods for compounds that activate the expression of different genes.

The composition of group VII is patentably distinct from those of the inventions of groups I-VI because the cells of group VII have specific characteristics which are not present in the cells of groups I-IV and the methods of groups V and VI cannot be used to produce or do not use the cells of group VII.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above, have acquired a separate status in the art shown by their different classification and/ or their recognized divergent subject matter, and because each invention requires a separate, non-coextensive search, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ram R. Shukla whose telephone number is (703) 305-1677. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Deborah Reynolds, can be reached on (703) 305-4051. The fax phone number for TC 1600 is (703) 703-872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature, formal matters or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the William Phillips whose telephone number is (703) 305-3413.

Please note that effective January 13, the offices for Examiner Shukla, SPE Reynolds and LIE William Phillips will move to the new USPTO location in Alexandria, VA and their phone numbers will change. The new phone numbers will be as follows:

Ram Shukla: **(571) 272-0735**

Deborah Reynolds: **(571) 272-0734**

William Phillips: **(571) 272-0548**

Ram R. Shukla, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1632



RAM R. SHUKLA, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER